

What is claimed:

1. A cover for covering a central portion of a wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, said flats defining a minimum radius $R1$ of a central portion of said lug nuts and said corners defining a maximum radius $R2$ of said central portion of said lug nuts, said lug nuts having a tapered lower surface, said cover comprising

a first retainer member contacting a first and second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

a second retainer member contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

one of said first and second retainer members having a first indentation defining a radius less than $R2$ for fitting against said tapered portion of said first lug nut for fitting under said corners thereof, and

one of said first and second retainer members having a second indentation defining a radius less than $R2$ for fitting against said tapered portion of said second lug nut for fitting under the corners thereof; and

means for rigidly locking said first retainer member to said second retainer member.

2. A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein said radius defined by said first indentation and said radius defined by said second indentation are both greater than R1.

3. A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means for rigidly locking is a screw threaded into a nut.

4. A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein
said said first retainer member has first and second indentations with both said first and second indentations defining a radius less than R2 and said first and second indentation spaced apart a distance for fitting around said tapered lower surfaces of adjacent ones of said lug nuts, and

said second retainer member has third and fourth indentations with both said third and fourth indentations defining a radius less than R2 and said third and fourth indentations spaced apart a distance for fitting around said tapered lower surfaces of said adjacent ones of said lug nuts.

5. A cover in accordance with claim 1 wherein said means for rigidly locking is a screw threaded into a nut.

6. A cover for covering a central portion of a wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on

each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, said flats defining a minimum radius $R1$ of a central portion of said lug nuts and said corners defining a maximum radius $R2$ of said central portion of said lug nuts, said lug nuts having a tapered lower surface, said cover comprising

a first retainer member contacting a first and second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

a second retainer member contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

said first and second retainer members each having a first indentation defining a radius less than $R2$ for fitting against said tapered portion of said first lug nut and a second indentation defining a radius less than $R2$ for fitting against said tapered portion of said second lug nut, and

means for rigidly locking said first retainer member to said second retainer member for retaining said indentations of said retainer members against said tapered portions of said lug nuts.

7. A cover in accordance with claim 6 wherein all said radii defined by said indentations are greater than $R1$.

8. A cover in accordance with claim 6 wherein said means for rigidly locking is a screw threaded into a nut.

9. A cover for covering a central portion of a hub piloted wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, and having a first annular bead rearward of said flats and said corners and having a first maximum radius R_1 , a second annular bead rearward of said first annular bead and having a second maximum radius R_2 , and a groove between said first annular bead and said second annular bead, said groove having a radius R_3 less than R_1 and R_2 , said cover comprising

a first retainer member contacting a first and a second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

a second retainer member contacting said first and said second adjacent ones of said lug nuts,

one of said first and second retainer members having a first indentation defining a radius R_4 less than R_1 and R_2 for fitting in said groove of said first of said adjacent lug nuts,

one of said first and second retainer members having a second indentation defining a radius R_5 less than R_1 and R_2 for fitting in said groove of said second of said adjacent lug nuts, and

means for fixedly retaining said first retainer member to said second retainer member with said first indentation in said groove of said first lug nut and said second indentation in said groove of said second lug nut.

10. A cover in accordance with claim 9 wherein said radius defined by said first indentation and said radius defined by said second indentation are both greater than R3.

11. A cover in accordance with claim 9 wherein said means for rigidly locking is a screw threaded into a nut.

12. A cover for covering a central portion of a hub piloted wheel of a vehicle, said vehicle having a hub surrounded by a plurality of parallel spaced studs, said wheel having a web with a plurality of holes therein for receiving said studs and a lug nut threaded on each of said studs to retain said wheel to said hub, each of said studs having a longitudinal axis and there being a fixed distance between adjacent ones of said longitudinal axis, said lug nuts having a plurality of flats and a corner between adjacent ones of said flats, and having a first annular bead rearward of said flats and said corners and having a first maximum radius R1, a second annular bead rearward of said first annular bead and having a second maximum radius R2, and a groove between said first annular bead and said second annular bead, said groove having a radius R3 less than R1 and R2, said cover comprising

a retainer member having an indentation defining a radius R_4 less than R_1 and R_2 for fitting in said groove of one of said lug nuts, and

means for rigidly retaining said retainer member with said indentation against said groove.

13. A cover in accordance with claim 12 wherein said radius defined by said indentation is greater than R_3 .

14. A cover in accordance with claim 12 wherein said means for rigidly locking is a screw threaded into a nut.